

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W

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R 131501Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6725

UNCLAS NASSAU 796

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC BF (BETHEL, E CLEMENT)

SUBJ: FY-76 EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE: NOMINATION
FOR STUDENT GRANT

REF: STATE 84390

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO NOMINATE E. CLEMENT BETHEL FOR AN FY-76 STUDENT GRANT. WHETHER CANDIDATE PURSUES A DEGREE PROGRAM (MASTERS OR DOCTORAL LEVEL) OR GRADUATE STUDY AS A NON-DEGREE STUDENT WILL DEPEND ON THE STATUS GIVEN HIM BY THE UNIVERSITY SELECTED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MR. BETHEL IS 37.

2. MR. BETHEL IS HEAD OF THE CULTURAL DIVISION OF THE BAHAMIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE BEST KNOWN AND PROBABLY LEADING CULTURAL FIGURE OF THE BAHAMAS. HE IS A MUSICIAN, COMPOSER, DIRECTOR, ARRANGER AND TEACHER. FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, HE HAS PRODUCED AN ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED REVIEW DEPICTING BAHAMIAN HERITAGE THROUGH FOLKLORE, MUSIC AND DANCE. THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING AS TOURISM CONSTITUTES THE BAHAMAS' PRINCIPLE INDUSTRY. BAHAMIAN FOLKLORE AS PRESENTED BY MR. BETHEL IS THE ONLY EXPOSURE MOST TOURISTS HAVE TO THIS ASPECT OF BAHAMIAN LIFE.

3. MR. BETHEL IS ANXIOUS TO DO RESEARCH INTO THE FOLKLORE AND FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE BAHAMAS, TO STUDY THEIR COMMON ETHNIC ORIGINS AND TO COLLECT AND PRESERVE MATERIAL ON BAHAMIAN FOLKLORE. MR. BETHEL HAS HAD TENTATIVE ACCEPTANCES FROM THE FOLKLORE INSTITUTE AND THE RESEARCH CENTER IN ANTHROPOLOGY, FOLKLORE AND LINGUISTICS AT INDIANA

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UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES.

4. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS PROGRAM MR. BETHEL PLANS TO RESUME HIS DUTIES AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND TO SET UP AN ACTIVE PROGRAM IN FOLKLORE FOR BAHAMIAN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.

5. PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY WHAT FURTHER DOCUMENTATION YOU WOULD LIKE AT THIS TIME. CAN FORWARD MR. BETHEL'S CURRICULUM VITAE, DEGREES AND COMPLETE BIO DATA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NASSAU00796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750168-0749
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750557/aaaabzwz.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 84390
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY-76 EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE: NOMINATION FOR STUDENT GRANT
TAGS: OEXC, BF, (BETHEL, E CLEMENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006